

March 25, 2003

TO: Internal File

THRU: Greg Galecki, Team Lead

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Environmental Scientist III

RE: Penta Creek Fee Lease, West Ridge Resources, Inc., West Ridge Mine, C/007/041 and IB03B

**SUMMARY:**

On February 7, 2003, the Division received an incidental boundary change for the West Ridge Mine. The Permittee wants to add a 74.92 acres tract known as the Penta Creek fee lease to the permit area. The addition area will allow the Permittee to expand the longwalls thereby increasing coal recovery. No additional surface disturbance with the exception of subsidence will occur as a result of the Penta Creek fee leases.

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**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION**

**PERMIT AREA**

Regulatory Requirements: 30 CFR 783.12; R645-301-521.

**Analysis:**

The new permit area is shown on several maps including Map 5-3 Sub-surface Ownership Map. The permitted area before the addition of the Penta Creek fee lease was 4,297.01. The Penta Creek fee lease is for 74.92 acres, which brings the total permitted area to 4,382.55 acres. The information is adequate to the Division to determine what additional areas will be included in the permit boundary.

**Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of the permit area section of the regulations.

**MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.24, 783.25; R645-301-323, -301-411, -301-521, -301-622, -301-722, -301-731.

**Analysis:**

**Affected Area Boundary Maps**

The Permittee did not include a map specifically labeled affected area boundaries. However, the Permittee did show on Map 5-4B, Mining Projections (Extended Reserves), which show those areas where additional permits may be sought. The information on Map 5-4B is adequate for the Division to determine where future mining may occur and what additional permits may be needed.

**Existing Structures and Facilities Maps**

The Permittee has indicated verbally that no structures or facilities exist within the Penta Creek fee areas. Therefore, no additional maps are needed.

### **Existing Surface Configuration Maps**

Map 5-3 shows the existing surface configuration. The contours on Map 5-3 appear to be from a USGS topographic map. The Division usually considers such maps adequate for showing surface configurations on areas where underground mining will occur but the surface will not be disturbed.

### **Mine Workings Maps**

The existing mine workings within the Penta Creek fee area are shown on Map 5-4B.

### **Permit Area Boundary Maps**

The permit boundary is shown on several maps including Map 5-4B. The information on the map is adequate for the Division to determine the permit boundaries.

### **Surface and Subsurface Manmade Features Maps**

There are no surface or subsurface manmade feature in the Penta Creek fee area that need to be shown.

### **Surface and Subsurface Ownership Maps**

The surface and subsurface ownership is show on maps 5-2 and 5-3 respectfully.

### **Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of the maps, plans and cross-sections of resource information area section of the regulations.

## **OPERATION PLAN**

### **MINING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES**

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**Analysis:**

The Permittee is not change the basic mine plan. The Penta Creek fee lease will enable the longwall panels to be extended.

**Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of the mining operations and facilities section of the regulations.

**EXISTING STRUCTURES:**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.12; R645-301-526.

**Analysis:**

No existing structures will be associated with the addition of the Penta Creek lease.

**Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of the existing structures section of the regulations.

**RELOCATION OR USE OF PUBLIC ROADS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.18; R645-301-521, -301-526.

**Analysis:**

No public roads are in the Penta Creek lease area.

**Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

**COAL RECOVERY**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 817.59; R645-301-522.

**Analysis:**

The Penta Creek lease will enable the Permittee to expand the longwall panels, therefore increasing the coal recovery.

**Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

**SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.20, 817.121, 817.122; R645-301-521, -301-525, -301-724.

**Analysis:**

**Subsidence Control Plan**

The Permittee will only be required to modify the subsidence-monitoring program to include the Penta Creek fee lease. The areas where subsidence is anticipated are shown on Map 5-7, Subsidence Map. All subsidence will be within the permit boundary.

**Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

**ROAD SYSTEMS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.24, 817.150, 817.151; R645-301-521, -301-527, -301-534, -301-732.

**Analysis:**

There will be no change to the roads or other transportation facilities.

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**Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

**SPOIL AND WASTE MATERIALS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 701.5, 784.19, 784.25, 817.71, 817.72, 817.73, 817.74, 817.81, 817.83, 817.84, 817.87, 817.89; R645-100-200, -301-210, -301-211, -301-212, -301-412, -301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-521, -301-526, -301-528, -301-535, -301-536, -301-542, -301-553, -301-745, -301-746, -301-747.

**Analysis:**

There will be no change to the spoil and waste materials handling plan.

**Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

**SUPPORT FACILITIES AND UTILITY INSTALLATIONS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.30, 817.180, 817.181; R645-301-526.

**Analysis:**

No new support facilities or utilities will be installed on the surface as a result of the Penta Creek fee lease.

**Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

**USE OF EXPLOSIVES**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.61, 817.62, 817.64, 817.66, 817.67, 817.68; R645-301-524.

**Analysis:**

No surface blasting will be done as a result of the Penta Creek fee lease.

### **Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

## **MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

### **Analysis:**

#### **Affected Area Maps**

The Permittee did not include a map specifically labeled affected area boundaries. However, the Permittee did show on Map 5-4B, Mining Projections (Extended Reserves), which show those areas where additional permits may be sought. The information on Map 5-4B is adequate for the Division to determine where future mining may occur and what additional permits may be needed.

#### **Mining Facilities Maps**

No new mine facilities will be constructed because of the Penta Creek fee lease.

#### **Mine Workings Maps**

The revised mine workings are shown on Map 5-7.

#### **Certification Requirements**

The maps have been stamped by Dan Guy, a registered professional engineer, but were not signed and dated.

### **Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is not considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of the regulations. Prior to approval, the Permittee must provide the following in accordance with:

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**R645-301-512.100**, The Permittee must give the Division maps and cross-sections that have been properly certified by a qualified professional registered engineer. Note: the maps and cross-sections given to the Division were stamped but not signed and dated.

## RECLAMATION PLAN

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: PL 95-87 Sec. 515 and 516; 30 CFR Sec. 784.13, 784.14, 784.15, 784.16, 784.17, 784.18, 784.19, 784.20, 784.21, 784.22, 784.23, 784.24, 784.25, 784.26; R645-301-231, -301-233, -301-322, -301-323, -301-331, -301-333, -301-341, -301-342, -301-411, -301-412, -301-422, -301-512, -301-513, -301-521, -301-522, -301-525, -301-526, -301-527, -301-528, -301-529, -301-531, -301-533, -301-534, -301-536, -301-537, -301-542, -301-623, -301-624, -301-625, -301-626, -301-631, -301-632, -301-731, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-746, -301-764, -301-830.

#### Analysis:

Because the only mining activity that will occur in the Penta Creek fee lease is underground, the Division will not require the Permittee to modify most of the reclamation plan. The two engineering areas of reclamation that the Division will discuss are maps and bonding.

#### Findings:

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

### MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

#### Analysis:

##### Affected Area Boundary Maps

The Permittee did not include a map specifically labeled affected area boundaries. However, the Permittee did show on Map 5-4B, Mining Projections (Extended Reserves), which show those areas where additional permits may be sought. The information on Map 5-4B is adequate for the Division to determine where future mining may occur and what additional permits may be needed.



### **Bonded Area Map**

The Permittee will not change the bonded area (disturbed area) therefore, no new bonded area maps are needed.

### **Reclamation Backfilling And Grading Maps**

No change to the backfilling and grading plans will be made as a result to the Penta Creek fee lease.

### **Reclamation Facilities Maps**

No reclamation facilities will be added or changed as a result of the Penta Creek fee lease.

### **Final Surface Configuration Maps**

There will be no change to the disturbed surface area because of the Penta Creek fee lease. The only change the final surface area because of the Penta Creek fee lease would be caused by subsidence. The topographic maps have contours intervals of 50 feet. The amount of subsidence that will occur would not be seen on the existing topographic maps.

### **Reclamation Surface And Subsurface Manmade Features Maps**

No reclamation surface or subsurface manmade features will be associated with the Penta Creek fee lease.

### **Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

## **BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

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**Analysis:**

**Determination of Bond Amount**

The Division has determined that no additional reclamation costs will occur because of the addition of the Penta Creek fee lease.

**Findings:**

The information provided in the amendment is considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Division should approve the amendment on the condition that before development of the Penta Creek fee lease begins that the Permittee give the Division certified copies of all maps and cross-sections. Note: While a professional engineer stamped all the required maps and cross-sections they were not signed and dated.